



Veterinary Nurse Prescribers

Executive summary

Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) are an essential part of the veterinary team and deserve full recognition for their roles. Under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR), only vets, pharmacists and SQPs can prescribe or supply certain categories of authorised veterinary medicines¹, but there have been calls to change

the animal does not receive regular health assessments, which may be an unintended consequence of booster vaccinations being prescribed by RVNs.

It has been suggested that there could be a role for RVNs in prescribing second vaccinations. However, in practice the second vaccination is usually prescribed at the same time as the first, so we are not convinced that such an approach would be practical for many veterinary businesses and would be unlikely to free up a significant amount of veterinary surgeon time. There could be a role for RVNs in administering second vaccinations which have already been prescribed by a veterinary surgeon at the first vaccination consultation, and we understand this already happens in some practices. Where the first vaccination has been prescribed and administered by a different veterinary practice, we would have similar concerns as already outlined, thus the second vaccination would need to be prescribed by the new veterinary surgeon after a clinical examination.

Recommendation 4: Prescribing vaccinations should remain under the control of the veterinary surgeon.

Other treatments

The development of the RVN role could potentially include management of ongoing health problems and preventative health care.

We believe there is a role for RVNs to play in prescribing routine flea and wormer treatments following a protocol-based RVN health check. To enable this, there would need to be careful consideration of the issues around professional responsibility and liability, particularly in relation to adverse reactions to treatments, and any re-categorisation of POM-Vs would need to be considered very carefully.

RVNs can play an important role in the ongoing management of chronic cases, supporting owner compliance and contributing to the maintenance of long term welfare. Subject to diagnosis by a veterinary surgeon, there is a potential role for RVNs in the re-supplying of Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) pain relief, topical treatments for some skin conditions, and repeat prescriptions for a wider range of medications to treat chronic conditions in stable patients. In this scenario, the RVN would follow a carefully worded and specific SOP before dispensing the medication and regular checks by a veterinary surgeon would still be necessary, the frequency of which would b